

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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The reason I talk to myself is because I'm the only one whose answers I accept."

Comedian George Carlin

After a slight delay, President JERRY SCHWENDEMAN opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by GRANVILLE BURGESS. Song Leader DON CONWAY, accompanied by pianist JIM SANTORA, led the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, *Any Time*, and *You Made Me Love You*.

Corresponding Secretary AV RIVEL said he had two jokes to tell. After finishing the first one AV confessed that he could not remember the second joke.

Also serving was Treasurer JEFF JUNKER, Assistant Treasurer WAYNE DeVRIES, Projectionist STEPHEN MARINO, and Mentor ANDY HOLMES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RETURNEES:** None reported.
2. **VISITING:** None reported.
3. There was no Human Interest storyteller this meeting but CHET RISIO promises there will be one next week, a mystery speaker.

4. **SALVATION ARMY:** Fellow Board Members JOHN FEBLES and Alison Brush said the organization was looking for volunteers to serve as Board members. The Board meets quarterly to find meaningful ways to help people with special needs.
5. **ANNUAL MEMORIAL:** During the period covering the year 2018 to this date in 2019, ARNOLD GORDON said that eleven members passed away. ARNOLD read the names of the deceased, their age, and years of RMA membership, as follows: PETER F. RYAN, age 82, 23 years, LOUIS A. CHIAPPETTA, age 98, 30 years, ROBERT E. ALDEN, age 90, 17 years, DOMINICK DiMAIO, age 94, 23 years, ARTO SZABO, age 83, 10 years, WALLACE L. BENEVILLE, age 87, 2 years, WILLIAM L. BURKE, age 77, 1 year, BARRY MONTGOMERY, age 79, 9 years, JOHN VECCHIONE, age 83, 3 years, WALTER K. HOWE, age 86, 6 years, and CHARLES E. MOSHER, age 88, 11 years.
6. **SHAKESPEARE GROUP:** The next DVD viewing of a Shakespeare play will be *The Merchant of Venice*. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE advises that the viewing will take place on Wednesday, June 12th at 1:15 PM, at the home of KEITH SMITH, 37 Jones Park Drive in Riverside. Those interested in viewing the play should phone GEORGE at 203-698-0710 for full details.
7. **SUNSET PICNICS:** We were reminded by TAD LARRABEE of the weekly RMA Sunset Picnics beginning at 5:30 PM each Wednesday during the summer at Greenwich Point. No sign-up. No reservations. Bring your own food and drink and enjoy good company. Location: the large picnic area at the point southwest of the pond which is circled by Tod's Driftway and closest to NYC.
 - a. TAD also advises that if you are interested in joining the RMA walking group every Thursday morning, please give TAD you email address. He announces walks by email on Wednesday afternoons.
8. **TAI CHI WALK:** Classes continue to meet at the Greenwich Senior Center at 3:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. WILL MORRISON advised that the Monday classes will focus on beginners; the Wednesday classes will address more experienced walkers.

COMMITTEES

1. **PROGRAMS:** Today's speaker, RMA member **ROBERT S. WYLIE**, was introduced by HOLLISTER STURGESS. In remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the June 6, 1944 D Day assault on the beaches of Normandy, France, BOB will discuss the magnitude of that assault and how deception and innovative engineering played an important role. Next week's speaker RMA member GRANVILLE BURGESS was introduced by JOEL BLUMBERG. Author of a recently published book *The Last at Bat of Shoeless Joe*, GRANVILLE will discuss the Black Sox baseball scandal and its aftermath on the life of Joe Jackson.
2. **MEMBERSHIP:** As reported by HORST TEBBE, there were 121 members attending and one guest, John Farrauto, g/o an unidentified RMA member. Happy birthday in word and song was extended to ERF PORTER, 83.

3. **VOLUNTEER HOURS:** As reported by MIKE HAYDEN there were 427 Outside Hours and 177 Inside Hours. Member with the highest hours was BOB CAREY with 50.
4. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** The two upcoming Special Events were covered by ABBEY SMOLER with details set forth below.

FUN AND GAMES

1. **BRIDGE:** FRANK LEE noted that the three highest scores were attained by ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 2470, LEN SAARI with 2450, and BRUNO SCHRAGE with 2230.
2. **GOLF:** Fifteen players participated. Twelve played eighteen holes and three played nine. PETER STERN covered the individual achievements: closest to the pin on #7 hole was JIM SANTORA, closest on #15 was GEOFFREY BURGE, and the longest drive on #17 was made by MICHAEL AMBROSINO. JIM SANTORA shot a 95 which was the lowest score. Next week's host is PETER STERN. PETER also advised that the June 11th West Point outing was cancelled due to a very poor long-term weather forecast.
3. **HEARTS:** Twelve players participated using three tables. JOHN KNIGHT said that six games were completed. Winners were LOU TROVATO, ED FARRELL, JACK SWEGER, JOHN KAVANAGH, PETER STERN, and TOM MARONEY. Shooting the Moon were TOM HEALY, PETER BERG and JOHN KAVANAGH twice. Next week's captain is ED FARRELL.
4. **TENNIS and PICKLE BALL:** Both activities were reported by JOHN KNIGHT. These outdoor activities are held on Loughlin Avenue in downtown Cos Cob. Tennis is held on Mondays from 9 to 11 AM; Pickle Ball on Thursdays from 9 to 11 AM. Only five players showed up last week for Pickle Ball. Rainy weather was a factor. On a beautiful spring day only four players showed up for Tennis.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to the RMA and must be received within two weeks following the making of the reservation(s) or the reservation(s) will be cancelled. Buses usually depart from the St. Catherine parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the Church, unless otherwise noted. Contact persons are listed with each event.

BELMONT RACETRACK: June 13, 2019, lunch in the Belmont Room where there is a dress code requiring jackets and ties, cost \$85, bus departs at 1:00PM. Status: 2 places available. Contact TOM HEALY at 203-661-2954.

BOTANICAL GARDENS: July 11, 2019, lunch at Mario's on Arthur Avenue, cost \$115, bus departs from the Eastern Civic Center at 8:45AM. Status: 20 places available. Contact MIKE FERRARESE at 203-554-0678.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB WYLIE, a fifty-year resident of Greenwich, was stationed in England during World War II where he served as a nose gunner in the U.S. Army Air Force and flew on twenty-five bombing missions over Europe. BOB pointed out that the planning for crossing the English Channel, a rough body of water, and landing on the beaches of Normandy, France began in 1943, and was referred to as Operation Overlord. Some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces would be involved in the largest military amphibious assault in history. Some of the considerations for Overlord was a direct confrontation with German forces rather than the trench warfare of World War I. Also, the situation on the eastern front was dire and there was a need for a second front. Some of the considerations for D Day were Air and Naval dominance, experienced troops which were lacking so intensive training began, disposition of German forces, and weather. To affect the disposition of German forces a fake Army was established in East Anglia including cardboard tanks and fake soldiers to convince the Germans that the attack would come at Pas De Calais on the French coast. Communications, which the Allied Command made sure the Germans would intercept, were being used to convince the Germans that Pas De Calais was the assault target, not the beaches at Normandy. After a 24-hour weather delay, the cross English Channel assault involving the beaches of Normandy began on June 6, 1944.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

GRANVILLE BURGESS, Author and Playwright, will talk about *Shoeless Joe Jackson*, *the Black Sox Baseball Scandal*, and *Life in A Carolina Mill Village*.

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